STI BULLETIN

A publication for users of the NASA scientific and technical information program

RECONplus Goes Online!

The NASA STI program's new, modernized search system, RECONplus, will go into production on March 1, 1996. After much hard work, the system will replace the aged RECON system. RECONplus prepares the STI program for the 21st century, offering many new features, Internet connectivity, a growth path to maintain technical currency, and application of well known, easily shared data standards. Built around Information Dimensions' BASISplus® , RECONplus provides a window into the NASA STI Database, initially featuring an easy-to-use, fill-in-the-blanks character-based interface (CBI). Later in 1996, a graphical user interface (GUI) featuring point-and-click technology will be introduced.

RECONplus is much, much more than just an interface. In the conversion to a client/server architecture, the NASA STI Database has been restructured and now uses MARC-formatted fields to achieve even greater flexibility and compatibility with other systems. Individual fields from the old system have been meticulously dissected and assigned to appropriate MARC fields. Likewise, many fields previously unsearchable are now indexed, enhancing the professional searcher's ability to target and refine searches. Precision and recall are likewise improved. Many fields which once required detailed knowledge of form of entry can be searched by word. For those who have always wanted to find materials by words in the abstract, RECONplus can do just that.

The CBI, which will be available first, actually provides three search styles to accommodate any preference. A simple *Quick Search* mode provides an easy-to-understand form for entering searches. The *Full Search* mode uses drop down menus to prompt the user each step along the way.

The *Command Search* mode provides access to the database through a powerful search syntax developed exclusively for RECONplus. All modes allow the use of Boolean operators and the *Full* and *Command Search* modes allow combining sets for even more sophisticated search strategies.

If that weren't enough, *Sort, Rank,* and *Tally* functions permit bibliometric analysis of search results, making RECONplus not only a bibliographic tool, but a means to examine search results in new and different ways.

As exciting as all this new technology and the new vision of NASA's STI initiatives is, the greatest thrill comes from contemplating the creative and the productive potential RECONplus provides the end user. From the desktop of NASA scientists to the PC of the engineer, to the monitor screen of the aerospace enthusiast, RECONplus will provide long sought opportunities and access.

New Shipping and Handling Charges
(Effective April 1, 1996)

In January 1995, the United States Postal Service increased postal rates for domestic mail, and in March increased prices for priority mail. Starting on April 1, 1996 new domestic shipping and handling charges will be applied to document orders to cover the postal increase. Basic shipping service charges will increase to $1.50 per document or video.

International orders will remain at $9.00 per document or video for basic shipping service. A new expedited service is available for $27.00 for one to three documents or videos with an additional $9.00 charge for each additional item.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Scientific and Technical Information Office

Book Review

Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program, Volume 1, Organizing for Exploration

John M. Logsdon, General Editor. Linda J. Lear, Jannelle Warren-Findley, Ray A. Williamson, and Dwayne A. Day, Co-Editors. (Washington, D.C.: NASA SP-4407, 1995), 795 pages; hardcover with dustjacket, $43.00.

Exploring the Unknown is an essential reference for anyone interested in the history of the U.S. civil space program and its development over time. This is the first of a three volume series containing a selection of key documents in this vital program.

This volume deals with organizational developments and prints more than 150 key documents, many of which are published here for the first time. Each is introduced by a headnote providing context, bibliographical details, and background information necessary to understand the document. These are organized into four major sections, each beginning with an introductory essay that keys the documents to major events in the history of the space program. ◀

Order your copy by calling the NASA Access Help Desk at 301-621-0390 or send e-mail ordering the book to help@sti.nasa.gov

Videotape Duplication Service

The past year saw the addition of what has become one of the most popular STI program services—videotape duplication. For years NASA has been documenting its research and achievements with spectacular spacecraft and aviation footage on film and videos of the highest quality. In 1995, these were made available to aerospace researchers, educators and enthusiasts worldwide. The NASA STI video collection at the NASA Center for AeroSpace Information (CASI) was created in response to the growing utilization of non-print media by researchers and educators as a means of communicating ideas and data.

There are now over 500 videos in the collection, covering a wide range of subject matter from historical and educational programs to in-depth recordings of research data, images and computer modeling. As new videos are produced, NASA centers send them to CASI for reproduction and distribution.

Video copies can be ordered by phone, fax, online through RECON, or on the Internet via the STI homepage. They are available in VHS or Betacam SP formats, in the US standard (NTSC) or in a broadcast standard used outside the United States (PAL or SECAM). Requests for other formats, SVHS and HI8, can also be accommodated, but they may require special handling. Most video requests are processed and shipped within three business days. A rush order service is available on an individual basis.
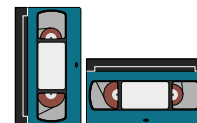
Prices

VHS................$9.00 Domestic
$18.00 Foreign

Betacam...........$61.00 Domestic
$122.00 Foreign

To place video orders or to obtain price quotations for videos in foreign standards, call the NASA Access Help Desk.

✔ Check out the *NASA Video Catalog* on the STI program Web site: *http://www.sti.nasa.gov* Almost 500 videos of Apollo and shuttle flights, experiment results, press conferences and unmanned mission flybys are available. ◀

Service Improvements at CASI

Input processing activities, micrographics, document ordering, and NASA Access Help Desk services were all subject to dramatic improvements in product quality and service delivery in 1995, the result of intensive TQM analysis and action.

The time required to load records to the NASA STI Database was reduced from two weeks to one

week. Even more dramatic results were achieved in the Microfiche Quality Improvements Project: processing time was reduced from eight weeks to five days, with improved microfiche quality. The Three-Day Turnaround initiative took a document delivery process that had seen three-quarters of document orders take five days and transformed it into one that ensures that 98 percent of all document order requests are completed in less than three days. The Help Desk Project provided NASA customers with a central place for information, assistance, and problem resolution. Faster service, human contact, and increased customer satisfaction meant more satisfied customers. ◀

The NASA Access Help Desk provides hotline help with search techniques, telecommunications problems, document requests, and other queries. Here is a typical Help Desk question and answer.

How can I register for ARIN? Access to ARIN can be accomplished by filling out a simple application form. An ARIN and/or RECON Access Registration form along with an informative brochure, *What's In It for Me?*, will be mailed to you. Upon receipt of the completed form, we will mail you a password. Library materials can be obtained by NASA employees through their affiliated library or through interlibrary loan. Others will have to contact a NASA center or their public library to get an interlibrary loan. Remember, if you have any further questions or need help in completing the registration form, telephone Registration Services at (301) 621-0153, fax (301) 621-0134, e-mail at help @sti.nasa.gov, or write NASA Access Help Desk, NASA Center for AeroSpace Information, 800 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-2934. ◀

NASA Thesaurus Terms

Definitions Added to Existing NASA Thesaurus Terms

Approach Control

The control process which delivers aircraft to the final approach course or landing system properly spaced for their landing.

Cirrocumulus Clouds

Cirriform clouds appearing as a thin sheet of small white puffs resembling flakes or patches of cotton without shadows.

Cirrostratus Clouds

Cirriform clouds appearing as a whitish veil. Usually fibrous, sometimes smooth, they often produce halo phenomena. This form may totally cover the sky.

Cirrus Clouds

Cirriform clouds in the form of thin, white, feather like shapes in patches or narrow bands. They have a fibrous and/or silky sheen. Large ice crystals often trail downward a considerable vertical distance in fibrous, slanted, or irregularly curved wisps called mares' tails.

Cumulonimbus Clouds

Cumuliform cloud type: heavy and dense, with considerable vertical extent in the form of massive towers. This form frequently exhibits tops in the shape of an anvil or massive plume. It is frequently accompanied by lightning, thunder, and sometimes hail. Cumulonimbus clouds occasionally produce a tornado or a waterspout. ◀

New CASI Refund Policy

Another change in 1995 was to CASI's refund policy. The NASA Center for AeroSpace Information will gladly replace or make a full refund on items you have requested if we have made an error in your order, if the item is defective, or if it was received in damaged condition and you contact us within 30 days of your original request. Just contact the NASA Access Help Desk. ◀

You can contact the **NASA Access Help Desk** at (301) 621-0390, fax (301) 621-0134, e-mail at **help@sti.nasa.gov**, or write NASA Access Help Desk, NASA Center for AeroSpace Information, 800 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-2934.

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Code JT
Washington, DC 20546-0001

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STAR Moves to Online Access Only

Budget constraints have forced the NASA STI Office to find alternative methods of delivering *STAR*. The 1996 issues of *STAR* will only be available in electronic form. The advent of the World Wide Web and the Internet mean that the announcement of new citations can be made faster and more economically using these tools. New *STAR* issues can be reviewed every other Monday beginning January 1, 1996. The NASA STI Office has a number of other publications which can be reviewed online. Current issues of *Aerospace Medicine and Biology* and *Aeronautical Engineering* are loaded on the STI homepage for your review. Access is available via the NASA STI homepage at **http://www.sti.nasa.gov.** Once there select **STI Program Publications** for a complete listing.

Please examine the offerings and send any comments to the NASA Access Help Desk via e-mail to help@sti.nasa.gov, or call (301) 621-0390, or use the comments link to the Help Desk that is located near the top of the STI homepage.